

October 8, 2004

As we all know, wildland fire is a major concern for Arizona. There is growing statewide interest to consolidate information regarding forest health and fire history with fuel treatment data and other related information in a centralized location for access by State, regional, and local decision-makers. The Arizona legislature recognized this in the new Arizona Healthy Forest Bill (H.B. 2549), and the State Forester has recently been tasked by the Governor's Office to begin statewide mapping in accordance with the changes to state statute A.R.S. § 37-622.

The State Land Department's Forestry Division and the Arizona State Cartographer's Office, along with other partners, have begun the ARIZONA FIRE MAP Project. (FIRE MAP stands for Fuels Information, Restoration, and Education – Mapping and Assessment Program). The project will bring together statewide data from federal, tribal, state, and local agencies, and allow all interested parties access to various map products and reports over the Internet.

You have received this letter because I know you are involved in related activities or may have other interest in the program. Over the coming weeks and months you will be hearing more about the project and may be asked to share data, information, expertise, or other assistance. When the Arizona FIRE MAP team contacts you, I ask that you support the project in any way you can. The FIRE MAP team will make every effort to minimize the impact of their inquiries on you and your activities; focusing on existing sources of information rather than new data or formats.

If you have technical questions about the program or have data to contribute, please contact Glen Buettner, the AZ FIRE MAP Project Coordinator at the Arizona State Cartographer's Office. (Phone: 602-364-1546 / Email: [gbuettner@land.az.gov](mailto:gbuettner@land.az.gov)) If you have questions regarding your part in the program or other forestry and fire management issues, you can always contact me directly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Rowdabaugh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kirk Rowdabaugh  
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